



SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
Sunday March 13, 2022



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich declares itself to be open and affirming; open to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment, and affirming of all who wish to join us as children of God. We continue to give thanks for God's guidance in our journey of faith.

We welcome you this day and are glad you made the choice to join us for this worship service. May it be a blessing to you.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP



*God puts the wiggle in children
and calls it good... and so do we!*

At First Church, we believe that the way we welcome children in worship directly affects the way they respond to God, the church, and to one another.

To welcome children as they are in worship, we've created the **PrayGround**, located in the front of the chapel (right side of the Meetinghouse) where children and others can engage in worship through movement and prayerful play.

The **PrayGround** offers space for movement and sensory materials for all ages to worship with and through. The presence of all God's children is a gift to the church, which offers hope for all.

Using your smartphone messaging app, text **FCCOG Donate** to **73256** or click [HERE](#) to access the online giving webpage.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

PRELUDE

Ah, Holy Jesus
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

One: Today is a day to sing praise to God!

All: **God continually blesses us, each and every day.**

One: Even in the midst of cold and darkness, the warmth of God's love is real.

All: **We can count on God to be here for us.**

One: Let your hearts rejoice and your voices shout praise to God.

All: **For God is great and worthy to be praised! Let's worship our God!**

1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove,
 2 Your spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will.
 3 Your good - ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest,
 4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;

the An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love!
 In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
 a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.

The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,
 Es - tab-lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
 There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,
 We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:

we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.
 and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.
 the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!

GATHERING PRAYER

Reverend Patrick Collins

God of promises fulfilled, we gather as descendants of Abraham; we stand before you as faithful testimony to your covenant; we assemble as living proof that your love for humanity knows no limits. Come by here and be with us now. When we feel overwhelmed by the stresses of daily life, we need only look at the stars in the sky to remember your abiding faithfulness. When we are overcome with despair by the pain of war and poverty in our world, we need only see the light of a single candle to remember the one you sent as our light, our strength, and our salvation. Guide our lives and our steps as we walk this Lenten journey, inward and outward. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, amen.

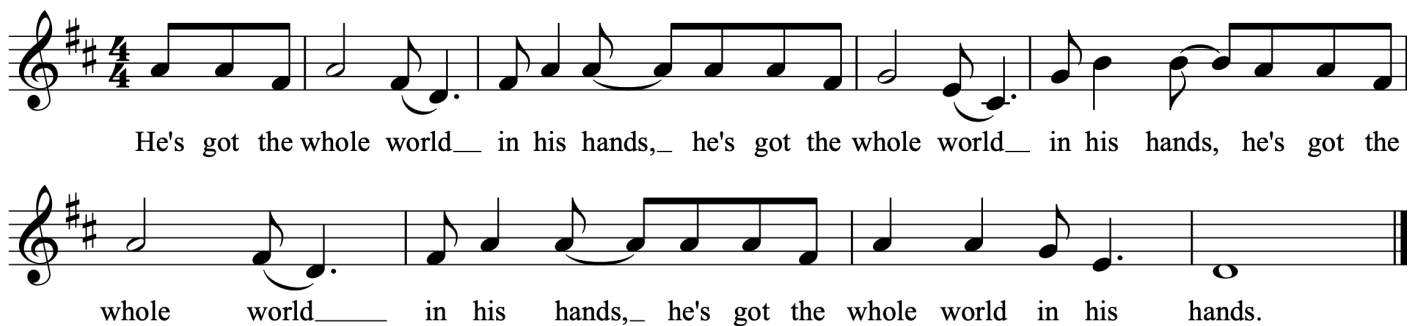
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

During the sung response, children will depart for Church School

RESPONSE

He's Got The Whole World



He's got the whole world__ in his hands,_ he's got the whole world__ in his hands, he's got the
whole world____ in his hands,_ he's got the whole world in his hands.

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 27
New Revised Standard Version
Helen Ingraham

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold[a] of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—
they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!
“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”
Your face, Lord, do I seek.
Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!
If my father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will take me up.

Teach me your way, O Lord,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.
Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

ANTHEM

Sanctuary / Total Praise
Richard Smallwood arr. Doreen Rao
The Chancel Choir

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.*

*Lord, I will lift my eyes to the hills, knowing my help is coming from You.
Your peace You give me in time of the storm.
You are the source of my strength; you are the strength of my life;
I lift my hands in total praise to You.*

SECOND LESSON

Luke 13: 31-35
The Message

Just then some Pharisees came up and said, "Run for your life! Herod's got your number. He's out to kill you!"

Jesus said, "Tell that fox that I've no time for him right now. Today and tomorrow I'm busy clearing out the demons and healing the sick; the third day I'm wrapping things up. Besides, it's not proper for a prophet to come to a bad end outside Jerusalem.

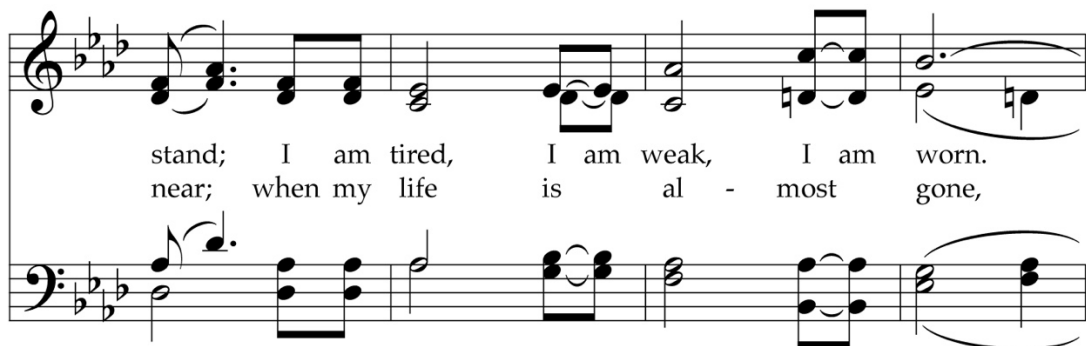
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killer of prophets,
abuser of the messengers of God!
How often I've longed to gather your children,
gather your children like a hen,
Her brood safe under her wings—
but you refused and turned away!
And now: You won't see me again
until the day you say,
'Blessed is he who comes in the name of God.'

MESSAGE

A Brooding Love
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me
 2 When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger



stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
 near; when my life is al - most gone,



Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the
 hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I



light; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
 fall; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

BLESSING OF THE BLANKETS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Have You Heard God's Voice?

Frederick Chatfield (b. 1950)

The Chancel Choir

Have you heard God's voice; has your heart been stirred? Are you still prepared to follow?

Have you made a choice to remain and serve, though the way be rough and narrow?

Will you use your voice; will you not sit down when the multitudes are silent?

Will you make a choice to stand your ground when the crowds are turning violent?

Will you walk the path that will cost you much and embrace God's love and sorrow?

Will you trust in One who entrusts to you the disciples of tomorrow?

Will you watch the news with the eyes of faith and believe it could be different?

Will you share your views using words of grace? Will you leave a thoughtful imprint?

In your city streets will you be God's heart? Will you listen to the voiceless?

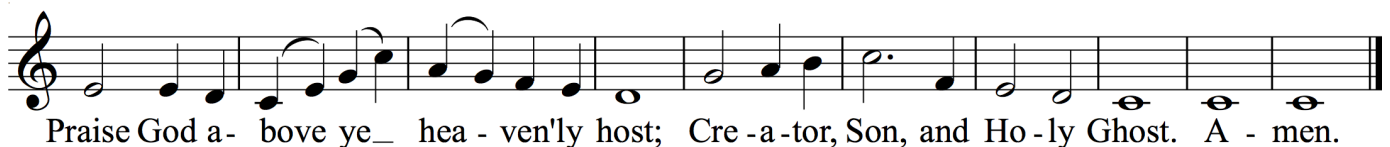
Will you stop and eat, and when friendships start, will you share your faith with the faithless?

We will walk the path that will cost us much and embrace God's love and sorrow?

Will you trust in One who entrusts to you the disciples of tomorrow.

Jacqui Jones

DOXOLOGY



PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leader or All G D/F#

1 You who dwell in the shel - ter of the Lord, who a -

G D/F# F

bide in his shad - ow for life, say to the Lord, "My

Dm F Gm Asus A

ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain All D Em

And he will raise you up on ea - gles' wings, bear you on the

A7 D D7/F# G

breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun,

A Bm F#m Em7 A Dsus D *Fine*

and hold you in the palm of his hand.

Leader or All G D/F#

2 The snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, and

G D/F# F

fam - ine will bring you no fear: un - der his wings, your

Dm F Gm Asus A
 to Refrain
 ref - uge, his faith - ful - ness your shield.

G D/F#
 Leader or All
 3 You need not fear the ter - ror of the night, nor the

G D/F# F
 ar-row that flies by day; though thou - sands fall a -

Dm F Gm Asus A
 to Refrain
 bout you, near you it shall not come.

G D/F#
 Leader or All
 4 For to his an - gels he's giv - en a com-mand to

G D/F# F
 guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will

Gm7 Am Gm7 Asus A
 to Refrain
 bear you up, lest you dash your foot a- gainst a stone.

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Lord Christ, The Only Son Of God
 J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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COVID-19 MASK POLICY UPDATE

WORSHIP:

The Re-Opening Task Force met this week and determined **we will continue to wear masks during the worship hour.** From the beginning of the pandemic, the Re-Opening Task Force decided to wait 30 days after any changes were made to community wide policies and procedures out of an abundance of caution. We are following that protocol on masking guidance in addition to taking into consideration that our youngest church members can still not be vaccinated. The task force will meet at the end of the month and decide on the use masks during worship. We look forward to seeing everyone's beautiful faces during worship, singing and praying to our God and Creator, which we sincerely hope will be soon.

NON-WORSHIP:

The Re-Opening Task Force recognizes that the groups using our spaces during the week and on the weekends serve populations who are eligible for full vaccination, which is our best tool for protection from the virus. **As such, the task force determined it was safe to follow the community protocols to go mask optional.** All committees, groups, and outside organizations now have the choice to mask while in the building.

TODAY'S EVENTS

COMMUNITY HOURL

We are pleased to announce that, effective this Sunday, March 13, Community Hour in the auditorium is back! During our time of fellowship masks are optional. Please participate as you feel comfortable.

THIS SUNDAY IS WORSHIP FOR ALL AGES!

Today we will begin a new series of lessons for all grades. Most grades will have a lesson related to the theme and scripture in the service. The 3rd and 4th graders will focus on an introduction to the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and will continue through May. After the Children's Message, children will go to their classrooms.



There will be adults in the hallway near the church school classrooms to help children find their class.

REHEARSALS FOR CHERUB, CHILDREN, & YOUTH CHOIRS

After an extended pause for Omicron, our youngest choirs have resumed rehearsals. All staff and participants are masked. During this winter/early spring session, this is a perfect opportunity to explore a bit of singing with these groups.

Cherub Choir Kindergarten – 2nd Grade: Carol Woodman, director;
Silver Room (lower level/preschool area) 11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Children's Choir 3rd Grade – 6th Grade: Craig Symons, director;
Music Room (3rd floor/choir room area) 11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

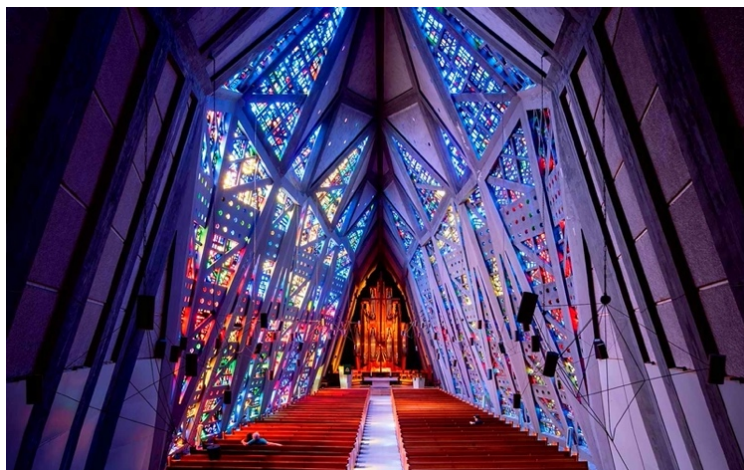
Youth Choir 7th Grade – 12th Grade: Danny Young, director;
Choir Room (3rd floor) 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

ORGAN CONCERT

TODAY at 4 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Stamford,

members of the Fairfield West chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present a concert of the organ works of Cesar Franck (1822-1890) to celebrate his bicentennial year. Included on the program will be Psalm 150, sung by members of local choirs, including our own Chancel Choir. The program is free and open to the public. If you've never been in the church, affectionately known as "The Fish Church", you owe it to yourself to visit and enjoy a program of wonderful organ and choral music.



LENTEN ORGAN RECITAL

This Wednesday, March 16, at 12 noon, Minister of Music, Dr. Craig Scott Symons, will perform a 30 minute organ recital at St. John Lutheran Church 884 Newfield Ave. in Stamford, as part of their weekly Lenten Organ Recital Series. The performance is free and is open to the public.

LENT AT FIRST CHURCH



Next Week In Worship

Sunday, March 20

Every Sunday in Lent we will experience an element of worship using our bodily senses. Next Sunday we will engage in the ancient spiritual exercise of walking (or tracing) the labyrinth.

Lenten Dinner

Tuesday, March 8, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Auditorium

Join us this Tuesday for a community meal hosted by one of our committees followed by a faith formation and education program on the spiritual practice of Tai Chi led by Will Morrison. Together, we will learn some of the history and spirituality of the practice, as well as learn a few simple practices you can use every day.

MUSIC NOTES

The organ prelude and postlude today are from two of the musical giants from different eras in music history. Brahms wrote his 11 Chorale Preludes in 1896 as the final works in his life and each were based on a familiar hymn tune in the Lutheran church. Bach also composed a set of pieces called the Orgelbüchlein, which was intended to be a compilation of preludes, also on familiar Lutheran hymns, for each Sunday in the liturgical year. His outline for this collection was for 164 preludes, but only 46 were eventually composed.

COLORING PAGE



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108 Sound Beach Avenue Old Greenwich CT 06870
203-637-1791 • www.fccog.org

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